

Result of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1552 is the need for certain metal companies to get licenses through DOL in order to be a metal recycler. The intent was to reduce instances of metal theft. (RCW 19.290 Metal Property)

Scrap metal businesses

Licensing required for scrap metal businesses

Starting January 1, 2014, you can apply for a license to operate a business that purchases or receives **non-vehicle scrap metal**. To learn how to get your license, see:

- [Scrap metal processor](#), if you process scrap metal at a fixed location.
- [Scrap metal recycler](#), if you have a fixed business location where you collect scrap metal for sale to other businesses.
- [Scrap metal supplier](#), if you don't have a fixed business location and collect scrap metal for sale to a recycler or processor.

Note: If you recycle salvage from wrecked titled or registered vehicles, you'll need a [scrap processor license](#) instead.

How to get your license: **Scrap metal recyclers**

Who needs a license?

You must have a scrap metal recycler license if you:

- Are in the business of buying or receiving **non-vehicle scrap metal** so you can sell it to another scrap metal business.
- **and**
- Have a fixed business location.

This license **doesn't** allow handling scrap metal from titled or registered vehicles. **If you process scrap metal from vehicles**, you'll need a vehicle [scrap processor license](#) instead.

How to apply

1. Complete a [Scrap Metal License Addendum](#)
 - Your [local authorities](#) must approve and sign the addendum.
 - For help completing the addendum, see [Instructions for Completing the Scrap Metal License Addendum](#).

2. Complete **all** the following forms:
 - [Business License Application](#) with all the necessary signatures
 - [Personal/Criminal History Statement](#)
 - [Vehicle, Vessel, Vehicle Manufacturer, Registered Tow Truck Operator, Wrecker, or Scrap Metal Business Bond](#)
 - [Weighing and Measuring Devices Addendum](#)
 - If the business is a Profit Corporation, [Corporate Information](#) form
 - If the business is a Limited Liability Company, a [Limited Liability Company Information](#) form
3. Mail your approved license addendum, completed forms, and a check or money order for the [license and plate fees](#) (payable to the Department of Revenue) to:

State of Washington
Business Licensing Service
PO Box 9034
Olympia, WA 98507-9034

How to get your license: **Scrap metal processors**

Who needs a license?

You must have a scrap metal processor license if you:

- Are in the business of buying or receiving **non-vehicle scrap metal**.
- **and**
- Maintain a shredder or a hydraulic baler and shears to process scrap metal at a fixed location

How to get your license: **Scrap metal suppliers**

Who needs a license?

- **You** must have a scrap metal supplier license if you:
 - Are in the business of buying or receiving **non-vehicle scrap metal** so you can sell it to [processors](#) or [recyclers](#).
 - **and**
 - Don't have a fixed business location.

- **Vehicles** used to conduct business must have scrap metal business license plates

FAQ from the DOL website:

Can I buy non-vehicle scrap metal if I already have a vehicle wrecker, hulk hauler, or scrap processor license?

No, those licenses allow you to acquire metal as part of a vehicle. A scrap metal processor, recycler, or supplier license is needed to buy non-vehicle scrap metal.

The RCW requiring license and bonding for metals recyclers does not apply to collection of scrap metal unless the collector is paying for the metals and conducts a minimum amount of transactions in a year. See below.

Bryan did note that the law applies to lead-acid battery recyclers who pay others for their batteries.

The interpretation by DOL was based on the following definitions:

(12) "Scrap metal recycler" means a person with a current business license that is **engaged in the business** of purchasing or receiving private metal property, nonferrous metal property, and commercial metal property for the purpose of aggregation and sale to another scrap metal business and that maintains a fixed place of business within the state.

(4) "Engage in business" means conducting more than twelve **transactions** in a twelve-month period.

(14) "Transaction" means a pledge, or the **purchase of**, or the **trade of** any item of private metal property or nonferrous metal property by a scrap metal business from a member of the general public. **"Transaction" does not include donations** or the purchase or receipt of private metal property or nonferrous metal property by a scrap metal business from a commercial enterprise, from another scrap metal business, or from a duly authorized employee or agent of the commercial enterprise or scrap metal business.

The contact at DOL for scrap metal recyclers is:

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Here is the link to the DOL site. Almost all of the information contained above came from the DOL website: <http://www.dol.wa.gov/business/scrapmetal/index.html>

